## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.    A method, comprising:

    detecting the thickness of a parcel that includes a print medium in an envelope or other packaging;

    accessing weight data for the print medium and the packaging;

    computing the weight of the parcel;

    accessing postal rates according to parcel weight; and

    computing postage for the parcel.


2.    The method of Claim 1, wherein the print medium comprises a sheet print medium and accessing weight data comprises accessing data representing the thickness of each sheet of the print medium and the weight of each sheet of the print medium.


3.    The method of Claim 2, wherein accessing weight data further comprises accessing data representing a number of folds of the sheet print medium.


4.    The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

    detecting a metal binder in the parcel; and

    accessing weight data for the metal binder.


5.    The method of Claim 1, further comprising applying the postage to the packaging.


6.    A method, comprising:

    accessing postal rates according to parcel weight;

    accessing weight data for different types of print media and different types of envelopes;

5         detecting the thickness of a parcel that includes one type of print media in an

6   envelope;

7         computing the weight of the parcel; and

8         computing postage for the parcel.


1      7.     The method of Claim 6, further comprising:

2         accessing weight data for different types of metal binders; and

3         detecting at least one type of metal binder in the parcel.


1      8.     The method of Claim 6, further comprising applying the postage to the

2   envelope.


1      9.     A method, comprising:

2         accessing postal rates according to parcel weight;;

3         detecting the size a parcel that includes one type of print media in an

4   envelope;

5         accessing weight data for the print media and the envelope;

6         computing the weight of the parcel; and

7         computing postage for the parcel.


1     10.    A method, comprising:

2         accessing postal rates according to parcel weight;

3         accessing weight data for different types of print media and different types

4  of envelopes;

5         detecting the thickness of a parcel that includes one type of print media in an

6   envelope;

7         scanning the parcel to determine its planar size;

8         computing the weight of the parcel based on the thickness and size of the

9   parcel; and

10         computing postage for the parcel.


1     11.    A postage computing system, comprising:

2         a thickness gauge positioned to measure the thickness of a parcel;

3         a postage meter positioned to apply postage to the parcel; and

4    a computer electronically connected to the thickness gauge and the postage

5    meter, the computer configured to access weight data for parcel media and

6    packaging, compute the weight of the parcel based on thickness data received from

7    the thickness gauge, access postal rates according to parcel weight, and compute

8    postage for the parcel.


1    12.    A postage computing system, comprising:

2    a thickness gauge positioned to measure the thickness of a parcel;

3    a postage meter positioned to apply postage to the parcel; and

4    a computer electronically connected to the thickness gauge and the postage

5    meter, the computer configured to access weight data for parcel media and

6    packaging, compute the weight of the parcel based on thickness data received from

7    the thickness gauge, access postal rates according to parcel weight, compute

8    postage for the parcel and transmit the postage to the postage meter.


1    13.    The system of Claim 12, further comprising a metal detector

2    electronically connected to the computer, the metal detector positioned to detect

3    metal in the parcel, and wherein the computer is further configured to access

4    weight data for metal binders and compute the weight of the parcel based on

5    thickness data received from the thickness gauge and metal data received from the

6    metal detector.


1    14.    The system of Claim 12, further comprising a scanner electronically

2    connected to the computer, the scanner positioned to detect the planar size of the

3    parcel, and wherein the computer is further configured to compute the weight of

4    the parcel based on thickness data received from the thickness gauge and size data

5    received from the scanner.


1    15.    A computer program product for computing postage, the product

2    comprising a computer useable medium having machine readable instructions

3    thereon for:

4    receiving data representing the thickness of a parcel;

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|---|---|
| 5 | accessing weight data for parcel media and packaging; |
| 6 | computing the weight of the parcel; |
| 7 | accessing postal rates according to parcel weight; and |
| 8 | computing postage for the parcel. |